

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 185206

ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

INFO USLO RIYADH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CASC, SA

SUBJECT: DISMISSAL OF AMCIT EMPLOYEES IN SAUDI ARABIA

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REF: (A) DHAHRAN 906; (B) JIDDA 5266; (C) DHAHRAN 851

1. DEPARTMENT HAS FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST AND CONCERN
EMBASSY AND CONGEN REPORTING ON RENEWED SAG ENFORCEMENT
OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF SAUDI LABOR LAW. AS IN THE
CASES OF LAST MARCH (JIDDA 1867, DHAHRAN 271, DHAHRAN 187),
PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE FAILURE OF FIRMS IN QUESTION TO
COMPLY WITH CLEAR PROVISIONS OF SAUDI LAW. OUR UNDER-
STANDING IS THAT NONE OF THOSE DISMISSED HAS HAD A VALID
WORK PERMIT; IN NONE OF THE CASES CITED HAVE PERSONS
LEGALLY EMPLOYED BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR PLACE OF
EMPLOYMENT. EMBASSY AND CONGEN SHOULD CONTINUE COUNSELING
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US COMPANIES OF IMPORTANCE OF COMPLYING WITH LABOR PERMIT
PROVISIONS.

2. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES DEPARTMENT SEES NO BASIS
FOR FORMAL DEMARCHE TO SAG ON THESE CASES. EMBASSY MAY
WISH, HOWEVER, TO CONTINUE INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH
APPROPRIATE SAG OFFICIALS RE OUR DESIRE THAT AMERICANS

WISHING TO WORK IN SAUDI ARABIA BE ALLOWED TO REGULARIZE
THEIR STATUS AND CONTINUE THEIR EMPLOYMENT IN ACCORDANCE

WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SAUDI LABOR LAW. OBVIOUSLY
PRESENT SITUATION IS DENYING FIRMS PERSONNEL NEEDED TO
PERFORM ADEQUATELY PROJECTS SAG REGARDS AS IMPORTANT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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